

Message Text

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TO AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE

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FOLLOWING REPEAT USINFO DTG 131950Z ACTION STATE INFO WHITE HOUSE

QUOTE

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STATE OPS CENTER FOR IMMEDIATE DELIVERY TO DAVID

GOMPERT FOR SECRETARY KISSINGER

SECRETARY'S MIDDLE EAST TRIP-IV (TAKE ONE OF THREE)

FOLLOWING IS A REPORT OF FOREIGN MEDIA REACTION AS OF NOON EST
FEBRUARY 13, PREPARED BY USIA:

SUMMARY: ISRAELI MEDIA WERE CAUTIOUSLY OPTIMISTIC ON THE TALKS
TO DATE. ARAB MEDIA DULY REPORTED DR.KISSINGER'S ACTIVITIES BUT
INSISTED THAT ISRAEL WAS DELAYING AGREEMENTS TO CREATE CONFLICTS
WITHIN THE ARAB SIDE AND WEAKEN ARAB DETERMINATION. CORRESPONDENTS
COVERING THE TRIP FOR WEST EUROPEAN AND JAPANESE MEDIA
REPORTED SIGNS OF OPTIMISM EMANATING FROM THE FIRST ROUND OF TALKS
IN CAIRO AND JERUSALEM. END SUMMARY.

TEL AVIV:

A BYLINER WROTE TODAY IN SEMIOFFICIAL /DAVAR/ OF TEL AVIV:
"AS FAR AS ISRAEL IS CONCERNED, THE SECRETARY'S PRINCIPLE MISSION
IN HIS PRESENT TRIP STARTS AND ENDS TONIGHT ON HIS RETURN FROM
CAIRO AND DAMASCUS...AND HIS REPORT IS MADE TO THE ISRAELI TEAM
ON WHAT EGYPT IS WILLING TO OFFER IN RETURN FOR AN IDF WITHDRAWAL
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FROM THE PASSES AND THE OIL FIELDS AND WHETHER OR NOT IT IS WILLING

TO CONCLUDE AN ARRANGEMENT WITH ISRAEL THAT IS NOT CONNECTED WITH ADDITIONAL AGREEMENTS WITH JORDAN AND SYRIA..."

A COLUMNIST STATED IN INDEPENDENT /MAARIV/:

"DR. KISSINGER WILL MAKE EFFORTS TO FORESTALL THE GENEVA CONFERENCE UNTIL AFTER AN ISRAELI-EGYPTIAN AGREEMENT IS CONCLUDED. KISSINGER FEARS THAT GOING TO GENEVA BEFORE CONCLUDING AN ISRAELI-EGYPTIAN AGREEMENT MIGHT SEEM TO INDICATE THAT TALKS CONDUCTED UNDER U.S. MEDIATION HAVE FAILED...SOMETHING THAT MIGHT ROB THE U.S. OF THE INITIATIVE AND INCREASE SOVIET INFLUENCE IN THE REGION..."

INDEPENDENT /AL HAMISHMAR/ COMMENTED: "THE OPTIMISTIC ATMOSPHERE IN CAIRO IS ENCOURAGING... EGYPT BELIEVES IT HAS VARIOUS OPTIONS... HOWEVER, IT IS EVIDENT THAT SADAT STILL PREFERS THE AMERICAN SOLUTION..."

THE NATIONAL RELIGIOUS PARTY'S /HATZOFEH/ NOTED THAT THE "SECRETARY DISAGREES WITH THE ISRAELI TEAM ON THE SCOPE OF CONCESSIONS REQUIRED IN EXCHANGE FOR AN ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL" BUT "IT IS WORTH NOTING THAT THE SECRETARY MADE A NUMBER OF GESTURES TOWARD ISRAEL...ASSURANCE THAT THE U.S. WILL NOT ABANDON ISRAEL FOR INTERBLOC ARRANGEMENTS IS AN IMPORTANT DECLARATION..."

CAIRO: EGYPTIAN PAPERS REPORTED EXTENSIVELY AND POSITIVELY TODAY ON THE SADAT-KISSINGER MEETINGS. SEMIOFFICIAL /AL-AHRAM/ SUMMARIZED WHAT IT BELIEVED TO BE MR. KISSINGER'S POSITION IN THE FOLLOWING POINTS: 1) EACH PARTY (EGYPT AND ISRAEL) MUST PRESENT "DEFINITE AND PRACTICAL" VIEWS ON FURTHER WITHDRAWAL; 2) SUCH A STEP MUST BE TAKEN BEFORE THE SITUATION DETERIORATES WHEN UNEF LEAVES IN APRIL; 3) MR. KISSINGER WILL THEN WORK OUT A FORMULA THAT CAN BE SEMI-ACCEPTABLE TO BOTH SIDES, AND 4) THE GENEVA CONFERENCE "IS A NECESSITY BECAUSE IT ENABLES THE USSR TO PARTICIPATE POSITIVELY IN ACHIEVING FURTHER PROGRESS." EDITORIALY, THE PAPER REPEATED CAIRO'S DEMAND FOR FULL WITHDRAWAL FROM GOLAN, WEST BANK AND SINAI "WITHOUT BARGAINING." IT EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE IN THE U.S. ABILITY TO PLAY A ROLE IN OVERCOMING WHAT IT SAW AS ISRAELI OBSTINATE REACTION TOWARD EGYPT'S CONDITIONS FOR A JUST PEACE.

SENSATIONAL /AL-AKHBAR/ ENDORSED A STATEMENT IT ATTRIBUTED TO PRESIDENT FORD THAT IF SECRETARY KISSINGER FAILED IN THE NEGOTIATIONS,

IT WOULD LEAD TO WAR "BECAUSE THE ARABS WILL HAVE TO USE FORCE TO RETRIEVE LANDS AND REGAIN RIGHTS."

GOVERNMENT-OWNED /AL-GUMHURIYA/ CARRIED A BYLINER'S ASSERTION UNCLASSIFIED

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THAT THE POLITICAL CLIMATE IS SUCH THAT THERE WOULD PROBABLY BE PROGRESS TOWARD WITHDRAWAL IN THE COMING WEEKS.

CAIRO MENA REPORTED THAT SECRETARY KISSINGER "SPENT ALMOST EIGHT HOURS IN TALKS WITH PRESIDENT SADAT." IT SAID THAT /AL-AHRAM/ (CITED ABOVE) HAD LEARNED FROM "WELL-INFORMED AMERICAN SOURCES" THAT DURING THE SECRETARY'S TALKS IN ISRAEL ON MONDAY AND TUESDAY HE RECEIVED SEVERAL MAPS FROM THE ISRAELIS WHICH DID NOT INCLUDE SPECIFIC WITHDRAWAL LINES. THE PAPER SAID THE SOURCES POINTED OUT

THAT "IT WAS CLEAR THAT THE ISRAELI SIDE HAS NOT YET REACHED THE STAGE OF DECISION." THE PAPER WAS ALSO CITED AS SAYING THAT AMERICAN SOURCES HAD DECLARED THAT THE "MERE STATEMENT BY DR. KISSINGER THAT HE INTENDED TO RETURN TO THE AREA WAS IN ITSELF A CONFIRMATION THAT HE CAN REALIZE SOMETHING AND THAT THIS BEGINNING DID NOT RESULT IN FAILURE."

DAMASCUS:

BOTH DAILIES TODAY FRONT-PAGED WIRE SERVICE ACCOUNTS OF THE KISSINGER VISIT TO EGYPT, INCLUDING A SUMMARY OF THE REMARKS THAT THE SECRETARY MADE TO NEWSMEN FOLLOWING HIS TALKS WITH PRESIDENT SADAT.

/ATH-THAWRAH'S/ CHIEF EDITOR, ALI SULEIMAN, DISCUSSED WHAT HE VIEWED AS SYRIA'S DEMONSTRATED WILLINGNESS TO SEEK PEACE, SYRIA'S ATTITUDE TOWARD PARTIAL SETTLEMENTS, AND SYRIA'S DETERMINATION TO THWART ATTEMPTS TO DIVIDE THE ARAB RANKS. HE SAID, "PROBABLY THE TERMINATION OF THE GOLAN WAR AND OUR ACCEPTANCE OF THE EXTENSION OF THE MANDATE FOR INTERNATIONAL (OBSERVER) FORCES ARE THE BEST EVIDENCE OF OUR DESIRE TO AVOID THE REPERCUSSIONS OF VIOLENCE..." CONTENDING THAT "ISRAEL IS NOW PLAYING A DOUBLE GAME," HE INDICATED THAT ISRAEL WAS "ENCOURAGING ITS ALLIES TO CREATE TWO PRINCIPAL DIVISIONS (AMONG THE ARABS): DIVISION ON THE OIL FRONT, AND DIVISION ON THE COMBAT FRONT." HE CONCLUDED, "WHILE WE PASS THROUGH ANOTHER PHASE OF PEACE EFFORTS WE MUST REMAIN MORE THAN EVER COMMITTED TO THE GOAL OF COMPLETE LIBERATION..POLITICAL ENDEAVOR MAY BE FRUITFUL BUT ONLY TO THE EXTENT IT IS COORDINATED WITH THE (OIL AND COMBAT) FRONTS..."

AMMAN:

NEWS ARTICLES GAVE A FACTUAL ACCOUNT OF THE SECRETARY'S TALKS IN EGYPT, NOTING THAT HE WILL RETURN TO ISRAEL TODAY /CARRYING EGYPT'S

RESPONSE TO THE ISRAELI PROPOSALS ON A NEW ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM SINAI."

THE PRO-GOVERNMENT /AL-URDUN/ TODAY STRESSED THE DECISIVE NATURE UNCLASSIFIED

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OF THE CURRENT TALKS AND MENTIONED THE PRESSURE ON THE U.S. TO REACH AGREEMENT OF SOME KIND. IT ADDED, "YET DR. KISSINGER IS STYMIED AGAIN BY THE EVASIVE ATTITUDE OF ISRAEL, THE LATEST EXAMPLE OF WHICH WAS SOME ISRAELI LEADERS' CALL FOR A RETURN TO GENEVA...BY SUCH A CALL THE LEADERS HOPE TO AVOID THE COMING AGREEMENT...AND CONTINUE THE NON-PEACE NO-WAR SITUATION..."

GOVERNMENT-SPONSORED /AR-RAI/ MAINTAINED THAT "IT LOOKS AS IF ISRAEL HAS PLACED NUMEROUS IMPEDIMENTS ON THE ROAD TO SETTLEMENT...IF PRESIDENT FORD IS CONCERNED ABOUT BRINGING PROGRESS, HE MUST REQUEST ISRAEL TO WITHDRAW, PARTICULARLY SINCE ALL THE WORLD ALSO DEMANDS WITHDRAWAL...ISRAEL'S PRIMARY SUPPORT NOW COMES FROM NO COUNTRY OTHER THAN THE U.S.". (END TAKE ONE)

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